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For Immediate Release

Excise Officers Issue 178 Tickets During Scheid Diesel

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (Aug. 26) – Indiana State Excise Police officers issued 178 tickets and jailed several people during this weekend's Scheid Diesel Fest in Terre Haute.

Excise officers cited or arrested 148 people on 178 charges, most for illegal possession or consumption of alcohol. Officers also issued 16 warning tickets.

This weekend's Scheid Diesel event took place at the Vigo County Fairgrounds on U.S. 41, with many people also filling the parking lots of businesses along U.S. 41.

Excise officers cited 83 people for illegal possession or consumption of alcohol and five adults for furnishing or providing alcohol to a minor. They also issued a number of traffic tickets, most for excessive exhaust and seat belt violations.

A 16-year-old boy from Canada was cited for illegal consumption of alcohol after officers observed him drinking beer with his father. Both were cited.

A 17-year-old female was cited for illegal consumption, public nudity and public intoxication after officers observed her dancing topless on the roof of a bus in the parking lot of the Burlington Coat Factory. She was released to her mother.

Four other females were cited for public nudity after they exposed themselves while performing on poles in the back of pickup trucks in the Burlington lot. These females were dancing topless where they were visible to passing traffic from U.S. 41.

Officers also called for an ambulance for an 18-year-old female found severely intoxicated in the fairgrounds. She told officers she might be pregnant. She was taken to the hospital for medical treatment. She will face a charge of illegal consumption of alcohol.

Early this morning, excise officers responded to assist at the Burlington Coat Factory when officers from other police departments reported that beer bottles were being hurled at them. At that time, several police departments cleared the parking lot. Moments later, they responded to McDonald's, where store management called to report fighting. Throughout the weekend excise officers broke up numerous fights in the parking lot of the Burlington Coat Factory.

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related violations.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.